

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments concerning the FCC File/Docket RM-10765. I fully support this initiative and would encourage you to establish a Homeland Public Press and Information Widecast Service as requested by George B. Hutchison. George's demonstration during the Special Temporary Authority to operate Radio Teletype Broadcast Station WA9XHN and WC2XPF proved that volunteers and equipment are readily available to establish and maintain this Widecast Service.

The Radio Teletype digital mode requires little bandwidth and demodulation techniques have been developed over many years that allow good reception even under poor atmospheric conditions and low power transmission. While reception of Radio Teletype signals is easily accomplished with a personal computer and a receiver, a growing number of Radio Amateurs and SWL individuals are assembling mechanical based stations. The widely distributed locations and robust mechanical nature of these stations would likely provide additional immunity to natural disaster or terrorist attack. The ability to store and retransmit data using a widely recognized digital mode could prove very valuable during emergency conditions. Unattended reception is a feature that few other information delivery systems provide. Ongoing transmission of this Widecast Service would enable these stations to test and maintain their equipment to ensure its readiness and functionality for use during an emergency situation.

A limited number of sources are available for news locally and most are subject to failures in the general infrastructure of power, telephone and data lines. Amateur Radio has proven time and time again that the HF frequency spectrum can be a very valuable communication avenue during times when other services are stressed beyond their breaking point during an emergency. A very few Widecast transmitters could provide coverage to the entire North American continent.

This capability to Widecast information would be a great benefit to the general Homeland Security initiative. It could easily be used to supplement transmission of information to emergency personnel, government agents and the general public. As such the Homeland Public Press and Widecast Service could become a vital element in the nations overall security, ensuring information when other sources are unavailable.

During these difficult economic times and the need for the Government to be fiscally responsible as well as perform it's duty to protect the citizens, an all volunteer organization of men using self owned and maintained equipment is a big advantage. It's hard to imagine a lower cost alternative with as much potential impact. Please support this initiative.

Sincerely,

David Freeman
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